



PRICE INDEXES OF METALLIC MATERIALS, AUSTRALIA JULY 1984

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

Table 1 of this publication contains index numbers for the *Price Index of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products*. This index is described in paragraph 3 below and a detailed description is contained in *Labour Report No. 57, 1972*.

Items and weights

2. All the indexes included in this publication are fixed weights indexes.

3. The items included in the *Price Indexes of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products* are important metallic materials whose prices are combined in accordance with a weighting pattern representing the value of usage as reported in the 1968-69 Census of Manufacturing Establishments, for establishments classified to the Fabricated Metal Products Subdivision of Manufacturing Industry (Australian Standard Industrial Classification—Subdivision 31).

4. The Appendix to the June 1984 issue of this publication described the items and weights used to compile the three *Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment* presented in Table 2 of this publication: *Industrial electric motors; Distribution transformers; and Power transformers*. The items were selected and allocated weights in accordance with the estimated average values of copper materials used in the manufacture of each type of equipment in the year 1982-83, revalued to the relevant prices applying in the *reference base year 1983-84*. The estimated values were derived from data reported by a sample of manufacturers for representative types of equipment in each category. The weights attributed to each item in each index reflect the average usage by industry in 1982-83 and, as such, do not necessarily reflect the relative values of materials used by particular manufacturers.

Prices

5. Most of the prices used in these indexes relate to the mid-point of the month. Prices are those charged to the manufacturers of fabricated metal products and electrical equipment by major manufacturers or distributors for materials delivered into store. Price series relate to goods of fixed specifications with the aim of incorporating in the index price changes for representative materials of constant quality.

Interpretation of the indexes

6. Because the 'All groups' index included in Table 1 is significantly affected by rapidly changing prices for silver, a special grouping 'All groups excluding silver' is included in order to indicate more accurately the general trend in prices for metallic materials.

7. The copper materials index for *Industrial electric motors* in Table 2 is intended to measure price movements of copper materials used in electric motors for industrial applications only. As a result, this index will not necessarily reflect the price movements of copper materials used in the manufacture of other smaller types of electric motors, such as those used as components in white goods or other domestic appliances.

8. Changes in index numbers for individual months should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods, because short term movements may reflect irregular fluctuations in metal prices.

9. Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the relevant monthly index numbers.

10. Index numbers for the most recent month are preliminary and subject to revision. However, it may be necessary from time to time to revise index numbers for earlier periods if incorrect prices for those periods are detected or if the sample of prices used to compile the indexes is found to be defective.

Related publications

11. Users may also wish to refer to the following price index publications which are available on request.

Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)—issued monthly

Price Index of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6411.0)—issued monthly

Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Darwin (6407.0)—issued monthly

Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities (6408.0)—issued monthly

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary—figure or series subject to revision
- nil or rounded to zero
- n.a. not available

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TABLE 1. PRICE INDEX OF METALLIC MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS GROUP P AND ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGES
(Base of each index : Year 1968-69 = 100.0)

Value weight (%)	Iron and steel	Aluminium	Copper and brass	Zinc	Silver	All groups	All groups excluding silver
	81.2%	8.9%	5.7%	0.5%	1.7%	100.0%	
1981-82	370.2	291.2	210.0	373.8	406.3	354.7	353.7
1982-83	407.7	312.2	231.1	400.3	624.6	392.8	388.7
1983-84	437.9	360.4	239.9	483.1	607.4	422.9	419.6
1982-83—							
May	419.9	317.7	257.6	421.5	816.4	408.3	401.2
June	422.6	330.0	256.4	423.0	754.7	410.5	404.5
1983-84—							
July	423.3	334.3	256.8	435.9	766.4	411.8	405.6
August	430.4	335.3	255.4	443.1	765.5	417.7	411.7
September	432.7	348.3	248.2	453.2	754.9	420.3	414.4
October	435.6	360.5	235.7	455.3	612.3	420.6	417.3
November	435.8	362.3	229.8	468.3	534.3	419.4	417.3
December	438.1	361.0	233.4	476.8	573.2	422.1	419.4
January	439.9	362.2	234.2	488.8	508.1	422.7	421.1
February	439.9	362.7	232.1	495.0	541.5	423.2	421.1
March	441.4	374.5	232.8	498.8	566.9	426.0	423.5
April	446.1	374.5	242.0	514.3	559.5	430.4	428.1
May	446.0	374.8	239.6	530.3	551.9	430.1	428.0
June	446.0	374.9	238.9	537.4	554.6	430.2	428.0
1984-85—							
July p	449.0	375.0	238.1	537.4	502.5	431.7	430.5
Percentage change between—							
July 1983 and July 1984	+6.1	+12.2	-7.3	+23.3	-34.4	+4.8	+6.1
June 1984 and July 1984	+0.7	—	-0.3	—	-9.4	+0.3	+0.6

(a) Composition and weighting pattern as at reference base year; see paragraph 3 of Explanatory notes.

TABLE 2. PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INDEX NUMBERS(a)
(Base of each index: Year 1983-84 = 100.0)

	Copper materials used in the manufacture of—		
	Industrial electric motors	Distribution transformers	Power transformers
1981-82	n.a.	88.3	87.1
1982-83	n.a.	98.0	97.0
1983-84	100.0	100.0	100.0
1982-83—			
May	n.a.	108.4	108.3
June	n.a.	107.4	107.4
1983-84—			
July	107.1	107.7	107.4
August	106.1	106.7	106.4
September	104.3	104.5	103.7
October	98.4	98.7	97.8
November	94.9	95.1	94.3
December	98.2	97.3	97.7
January	98.2	97.3	97.3
February	96.6	96.2	95.9
March	97.1	97.2	96.6
April	100.6	100.5	101.8
May	98.9	99.3	100.4
June	99.6	99.5	100.6
1984-85—			
July p	99.1	99.0	100.4

(a) Index numbers for all series from July 1983 onward are based on revised weights (see paragraph 4 of the Explanatory notes). Index numbers prior to July 1983 are based on the previous weights and are as published in the August 1983 issue except that they have been converted from reference base 1968-69 = 100.0 to reference base 1983-84 = 100.0 (see paragraph 8 of the Appendix of the June 1984 publication).